

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 4 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claims 1, 3, 6, 10-15 and 20 are amended and claims 2 and 9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 2-8 and 10-19 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. The drawings are amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. A substitute specification is provided to overcome the informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hashimoto et al. (JP 09-325575). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended by including into the subject matter of allowable former claim 2, and independent claim 20 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable former claim 15. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 20 are now allowable. Also, the cancellation of claim 9 renders its rejection moot.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 20, and their dependent claims, are allowable. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-15 are amended into independent form. Because claims 10-15 were found to be allowable by the Patent Office if rewritten in independent form, independent claims 10-15 are now allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-8 and 10-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TMN/amw

Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Substitute specification
Marked-up copy of specification
Replacement Drawing Sheet

Date: February 3, 2006

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